

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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UPPER COOK INLET PERSONAL USE FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-02-13

This Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Fishing Announcement closes the personal use set gillnet fishery at the mouth of the Kasilof River at 11:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2013.

The personal use set gillnet fishery is being closed to conserve early-run king salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. The king salmon sport fishery in the Kenai River will close from the mouth upstream to the outlet of Skilak Lake and in the Moose River from its confluence with the Kenai River upstream to the northernmost edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, June 20. In the Kasilof River sport fishery, the use of bait will be prohibited and gear will be restricted to one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, June 20. In addition, the retention of naturally-produced king salmon is currently prohibited in the Kasilof River sport fishery.

As of June 16, approximately 57 percent of the early-run of Kenai River king salmon is complete based on average run timing (2002-2012). The total inriver run estimated by sonar (DIDSON) and all indices of abundance indicate the run is below average and less than forecasted. Although there are indications that king salmon runs throughout Cook Inlet may be later than normal, inseason projections indicate the Kenai River OEG OF 5,300 to 9,000 fish will not be achieved by the end of the season on June 30. Through June 16, the DIDSON sonar cumulative estimate of king salmon passage into the Kenai River was 969 fish. Inseason projections using DIDSON sonar are for a total run to the river of 1,500 to 2,500 early-run Kenai River king salmon.

The Kasilof River personal use dip net fishery will open by regulation at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2013.